

wrote an essay for the General Mills sponsored organization on parental involvement in schools. His school, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Day School in Lutherville, MD, was awarded a grant of one thousand dollars because of his achievement.

By using the topic provided, Sam carefully crafted an essay to explain how he would improve parental involvement in schools if he were principal for a day. He recommends parents volunteer their time by speaking to the students about their area of expertise. For example, he mentions how someone in the health profession came to the school and taught the students a lesson in that subject. He also suggests parents come into the classroom to relate their personal experiences to whatever subject is being taught that day.

Sam's essay is extremely motivational. It proves that school-aged children are interested in their families, and would like more opportunities to learn from them. He suggests teachers assign activities that involve parents, making learning fun for both the student and the parent. Sam provides an example of the previous year when he was given an assignment to learn about rocks. He was only able to find a small variety of rocks in his neighborhood so, as a result, his parents needed to take him to other locations to complete the task. I believe that education is one of the most important gifts we can give our children and it must begin in the home.

It is critical to arm our children with the best skills possible to ensure their success in life. They acquire these skills through practice both in the home and at school. It is very important to keep the lines of communication open between parents and school officials. Sam offers an idea of "Principal Coffees" where parents and administrators are given the opportunity to discuss what is happening in the school. He also recommends administrator and parent meetings via chat room discussions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to recognize the achievement of essay winner Master Sam Hyatt. He should be commended for his outstanding efforts.

IN HONOR OF THE GREGORY FAMILY AS THEY RECEIVE THE TREE OF LIFE AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gregory Family as they receive the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30th, 2006 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its prestigious Tree of Life award annually since 1981. Recipients of this honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

Members of the Gregory Family receiving the award include the late Ted Gregory, his wife Matula and their children and spouses,

Tom and Pam; Dean and Hedy; Evan and Terry; and Vickie. This talented and generous family is behind one of Cincinnati's most notable treasures, The Montgomery Inn Restaurants. These award-winning restaurants are known not only in our own region, but across the nation.

Ted Gregory and his wife Matula worked hard to build their business and instill a strong work ethic and sense of charity in their children. Ted often said, "Give until it hurts, then give a little more." This belief, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to the Gregory Family's success.

As the Gregory's success has steadily grown over the years, so too has their mission to give back to others. Some of their beneficiaries include the Bob Hope House, The Free Store Food Bank, The Down Syndrome Association, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, One Way Farm and countless others.

The family also established the Montgomery Inn Invitational, which has raised more than \$500,000. These funds have benefited the Jewish Federation, the Uriah P. Levy Jewish Chapel at the U.S. Naval Academy, the United Negro College Fund, the Billy Barty Foundation, and scholarships benefiting many area youth.

Today, Ted and Matula's children continue to carry on the family's charitable legacy. The four Gregory children graduated from Sycamore High School, where they recently endowed a state-of-the-art fitness center bearing the name of their parents.

The Gregory Family will donate the proceeds from this year's Tree of Life dinner to the Jewish National Fund Therapeutic Riding Consortium Endowment for Israel.

In addition to four children, Ted and Matula have eight grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate the Gregory Family on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

A TRIBUTE TO BURNETTA ROSE LEE GRAVES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Burnetta Rose Lee Graves, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing her accomplishments.

Burnetta is a native of Brooklyn, New York and the daughter of Helena and the late Abel Lee Graves both of Wilmington, N.C. She attended the public schools in Brooklyn, N.Y. for her formative education and graduated from George W. Wingate H.S. After attending Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan, she embarked on an entrepreneurial career as a clothing designer for 13 years.

Burnetta is an active member of both the Brooklyn and Queens communities; her political affiliations include: Women's Caucus for Congressman EDOLPHUS "Ed" TOWNS; Guy R. Brewer United Democratic Club of St. Albans, N.Y.; and the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club of Kings County Inc. Additionally, while working for Philip Morris USA, the company aided Burnetta's community affiliation in various areas of New York.

Burnetta has always been an active member of her church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Harlem USA. While there she was president of the Young Adult Club for 4 years and served as a Trustee for 3 years. In 1997, she was drawn to St. Paul Community Baptist Church in East New, Brooklyn, N.Y. because of the interactive relationship that the church has with the community. As a member of the Baby Dedication Ministry and various activities of the church, she has numerous opportunities to reach out to the community at large.

Working for the Rochdale Village Community Center in Jamaica, N.Y. enables Burnetta to teach children ages 5–12 the art of quilt making. To this day the quilts are still displayed in the front entrance of the center.

In 2002 she joined the staff of Congressman ED TOWNS as a Special Assistant and Ecumenical Liaison. In that role she deals with all faith-based organizations in the 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn, N.Y. She also assists constituents in housing concerns and other issues. Burnetta's current project is "Adopt A School" working with Health-based organizations to insure better health care standards for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Burnetta Rose Lee Graves' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING DANIEL FIGUEROA FOR HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Daniel Figueroa, who has set an example to all, through community involvement, selfless dedication and tireless compassion for the community.

To his community he is known as a pioneer, and as someone who never forgot his roots, to his coworkers he is known for his diligence and exemplary work ethic. Detective Sergeant Daniel Figueroa is not only an outstanding member of the department but also an outstanding member of his community.

Daniel Figueroa has been a member of the Buffalo Police Department for 35 years. It is also important to note that officer Figueroa was one of the first Hispanic-Latino officers in Buffalo, NY.

Aside from his duty in law enforcement he also served as an Army paratrooper during the Vietnam War.

Officer Figueroa has also been recognized for is service working undercover for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Stories and memories of his work while in the department have changed lives and inspired others. A prime example of officer Figueroa's dedicated service occurred in 1970 when on patrol at the Erie Basin Marina; he noticed a crowd of people and saw a man in the water. Without hesitation, he jumped in to rescue the drowning man. He learned later that the man he had rescued was trying to commit suicide, eventually the man contacted officer Figueroa to thank him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude that I stand here today to recognize